

Professional Biography Assignment

Purposes:

- Utilize a variety of emerging [technologies](#) to enhance instruction, develop language proficiency and cultural competence, and improve your professional productivity (INTASC Standard 4 – Instructional Strategies, INTASC Standard 5 – Learning Environment, INTASC Standard 6 – Communication)
- Participate professionally in the school community, in [professional organizations](#) and [professional development activities](#), and engage in [professional dialogue and reflection with colleagues](#) to improve yourself and your program (INTASC Standard 9 – Reflective Practice & Professional Development, INTASC Standard 10 – Community)

Instructions:

Prepare a professional biography that represents who you are and showcases your skills as a teacher and member of a professional community. The length of the biography will vary with your professional experience, but should be no shorter than a paragraph and no longer than 1 page. It should include:

- Awards and honors you have been nominated for and/or received
- Contributions to the field (i.e., courses you have designed; instructional strategies you have advocated; materials you have developed; professional clubs, groups, or organizations you have facilitated, founded, or organized, etc.)
- Current professional context (i.e., current responsibilities, language(s) you teach, level(s) at which you teach, school or institution)
- Educational background (i.e., Bachelors, Masters, Doctoral, Post-doctoral Work, and/or special training, study abroad)
- Important professional projects, activities, and associations in which you have participated (i.e., advisory boards, conference presentations, special projects, summer institutes, professional publications, etc.)
- Professional influences/philosophy (optional – but could include concepts, principles, or theories that have deeply influenced your professional perspective)
- Professional/research interests (i.e., educational concepts and theories, subject matter, or other ideas that you are currently exploring)
- Teaching contexts over the course of your career (i.e., language, level, type of school)
- Your name and a photo

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HOW DO I KNOW IF MY BIOGRAPHY ACCOMPLISHES ITS PURPOSE OR NOT?

Appearance – Is the biography aesthetically pleasing? What does its appearance (design, font, layout, thematic elements) communicate about your personality, your perspective, your practice, and your professionalism? Do you take advantage of potentially empty space to provide more insights into your professional life (through relevant images, for example)? Will the biography reproduce well in black and white, color, electronically, and in print?

Content - Does the content of the biography showcase your professional accomplishments and highlight the unique contributions you could make to a professional endeavor?

Credibility – Does the biography serve as evidence of your professional authority, competence, and credibility?

Formatting & Organization – Is the biography formatted and organized in such a way that readers can quickly locate the specific information they may be seeking?

Interest – Does the biography entice the reader to want to learn more about you? Does it provoke the reader to invite you to give a presentation or participate in a professional project?

Perspectives – Does the biography communicate who you are, what you believe/understand/value, and why?

Photo – Is the photo that accompanies the biography of good quality? Does it make it easy for other professionals who do not know you to recognize you at professional conferences? Does it convey the same message the biography does?

Practices – Does the biography guide the reader to see how who you are and what you believe/understand/value is expressed “in action” in your practice?

Products – Does the biography make it easy for the reader to see how your professional career has contributed to the field?

Tone – Is the tone of the biography confident, factual, and professional, or does it sound cheesy, exaggerated, or prideful?

Examples: <http://languagelinks2006.wikispaces.com/Cherice+Montgomery>
<http://languagelinks2006.wikispaces.com/space/showimage/Biography.pdf>